Reply.—The suggestions of the speakers will be borne in mind. In regard to the fall in forest revenue, it has to be said that the gross revenue of the Forest department has not decreased. It has remained at the same figure for several years and is now more than what it was ten or twelve years ago. A valuation survey has been started and it is almost finished in one tract. The general improvement of the forests under this system of working is steadily kept in view. It is hoped that the income will gradually increase.

113. Permission to cultivate paddy within reserved forests.

Mr. Dominic Thomman (*Agricultural Association, Changanachery*) observed that about 2,400 square miles or more than one-third of the entire area of the State had been already declared as reserved forest. Until recently, periodical paddy cultivation was permitted within these reserves and for generations thousands of people had been accustomed to look upon this as their sole source of livelihood. The all-too-sudden closing of this channel of subsistence was a source of unmitigated hardship to the people, and when the matter was recently explained to Government they promised to relax the stringency of the prohibition in some of the reserved forests and said that the matter was receiving their careful attention. The member earnestly requested that a definite scheme might be soon formulated for the grant of this prayer.

Reply.—As a general rule paddy cultivation cannot be allowed within reserved forests except on a small scale where it is intended to plant up the land with trees afterwards. The cultivation of paddy on hill-slopes and the growing of trees for timber on them are incompatible with each other. What is possible will nevertheless be done.

114. Exclusion from reserves of tracts not indispensable for forest conservation and only fit for agricultural purposes.

Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Mathevan (*Nedumangad*) said that at present there were many tracts within reserved forests in which valuable timber trees would not grow, but which would be fit for the cultivation of cereals. Such tracts, he submitted, might be excluded from reserves with a view to promote the interests of agriculture.

Reply.—Government have recently given their particular attention to this subject and have invited the opinions of responsible officers.

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When their reports are received, the matter will be considered.

115. Desirability of registering lands within reserved forests fit for paddy cultivation in the names of ryots.

Mr. Ousep Curiya Aippu (*Muvattupuzha*), *Mr. Padmanabhan P arameswaran and Mr. Narayanan Velayudhan* (*Pathanapuram*), *and Mr. N Padmanabha pillai and Mr. K. Kochu Thomman* (*Chengannur*) brought forward this subject and requested that some relief might be given in the direction prayed for.

Reply.—When the settlement of reserves is completed, it is intended to allow some lands to the ryots for purposes of cultivation. After ascertaining the area and position of such lands, applications will be invited for cultivating the same.

116. Desirability of excluding registered holdings and dwelling houses from reserves.

Mr. Agasti Agasti (*Todupuzha*) in whose name this subject stood was not present in the Assembly when called. Nevertheless, the subject was taken up.

Reply.—Registered but unoccupied holdings have in a few cases been included within reserves by mistake. But where dwelling houses and occupied holdings have been included, it is the intention of Government to acquire them from the owners. The question of dealing with lands within reserves for which pattahs have been issued has already engaged the attention of Government. A plan has been prepared by the Conservator showing the cultivated areas and he has also undertaken the preparation of taluk maps showing the reserved tracts. The matter is thus under consideration.

117. Desirability of excluding from reserved forests all lands within a radius of four miles irom dwelling houses.

Mr. N. Krishnan Unnithan (*Kunnattur*) *and Mr. R. Narayana Iyer and Mr. Kanakku Parameswaran Krishnan* (*Kottarakara*) suggested that all lands within a radius of 4 miles from dwelling houses might be excluded from reserves, as lands were being continually taken up and houses built close to reserved forests and the day would soon come when these occupants might ask for the removal of reserves further back for their convenience.

Reply.—The Conservator of Forests remarks that it would be

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